GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:244
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2007
INCREASE IN PRICES OF MEDICINES.
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Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of medicines are increasing constantly despite the efforts made by the Government on its part as reported in the `Navbharat Times` dated August 6, 2007; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS & MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) & (b) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (b) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 244 (4th position) FOR ANSWER ON 30-8-2007 ON THE SUBJECT OF `INCREASE IN PRICES OF MEDICINES.

The news item published in Navbharat Times dated 6th August, 2007 relates to the increase in prices of medicines. At present, the 74 bulk drugs specified in First Schedule of Drugs (Price Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 95) and the formulations based thereon are under price control and their prices are fixed/revised by the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in accordance with the provisions of Para 7 of the DPCO, 95. The details of prices fixed/revised by NPPA are available in the compendium of prices placed in the library of Parliament and also available on the website of NPPA.

Only two bulk drugs used in the treatment of Diabetes namely Insulin and Glipizide and formulations thereof are Scheduled bulk drugs and their prices are fixed/revised as per Para 7 of DPCO, 95. As mentioned in the News item, NPPA has not revised the price of 10 ml insulin from Rs. 130 per vial to Rs. 150 per vial. No price increase has been detected in case of Insulin in the last 7 months (from 1.1.07 to 21.8.07).

Recently, NPPA has conducted a market survey in Delhi in case of Insulin which is placed at Annexure-I. The analysis shows that in most cases the prevailing market prices of Insulin (10ml vial) are not more than the price fixed by NPPA.

As regard to the medicines used in the treatment of Malaria mentioned in the News item, Chloroquine is the Scheduled bulk drug and the prices are fixed by NPPA as per the norms prescribed in DPCO, 95. The price of Chloroquine 250 mg. 10 strips has been fixed at Rs. 5.68 excluding local taxes and the medicine is being sold in the market at.Rs. 5.91 for 10 tablets including local taxes. The other medicine mentioned in the News item, Arthomether Lumesinetyrime is a non-Scheduled medicine and therefore, the prices are fixed by the manufacturers on their own.

In general, the prices of anti-asthmatic drugs are reasonable. Some most important and commonly used drugs in this group include Salbutamol and Theophylline and both the drugs are in price controlled category. The prices are fixed regularly under the provisions of DPCO. The Glucometer and strips are medical devices and their prices are not fixed under DPCO, 95.

Recently, this Department has asked the Drug Controller General (India) that intimation of any approval of new formulations should be sent to NPPA so as to enable it to keep a track of its prices in the market.